

**2011-12**  
**Oregon Battle of the Books**  
**Grades 6-8**  
**Annotated Booklist**



**All the Broken Pieces** by Ann E. Burg (2009).

Historical Fiction.

AR4.1, 680L, 224 pages.

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind. Now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events force him to confront his past.

**The Circuit: Stories From the Life of a Migrant Child** by Francisco Jimenez (1997).

Historical Fiction

AR5.3, 880L, 134 pages

This book is a collection of stories from the life of a migrant child, Francisco Jimenez. *ALA Notable Best Books.*

**Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam** by Cynthia Kadohata (2008).

Historical Fiction.

AR4.9, 730L, 312 pages.

A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his scout dog.

**Cuba 15** by Nancy Osa (2003).

Realistic Fiction.

AR4.9, 750L, 304 pages.

Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of an Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday. *Pura Belpre Award Honor Book, ALA Notable Best Books.*

**Football Genius** by Tim Green (2007).

Realistic Fiction.

AR4.8, 800L, 244 pages.

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players

**Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life** by Wendy Mass (2006).

Realistic Fiction

AR4.5, 770L, 304 pages

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box, set aside by his father before his death five years earlier, that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

**Kingdom Keepers** by Ridley Pearson (2005).

Fantasy.

AR4.2, 640L, 325 pages.

Finn is hired to be hologramed as a Disney World park "guide" but soon finds himself being transported into the Magic Kingdom in the dead of night to help fight a group of Disney villains who want to take over Disney World--and maybe more.

**Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo** by Obert Skye (2005).

Fantasy.

AR5.6, 850L, 368 pages.

When fate brings fourteen-year-old Leven and thirteen-year-old Winter together, they discover that for mankind to continue dreaming, the gateway between reality and dreams needs to be found and demolished.

**Leviathan** by Scott Westerfeld (2009).

Science Fiction

AR5.3, 790L, 448 pages.

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, running from the Clanker Powers who are trying to take over the globe, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn, who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly. *2011 Oregon Reader's Choice Award, ALA Notable Best Books.*

**NERDS: National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society** by Michael Buckley (2009).

Fantasy.

AR5.3, 760L, 352 pages.

While running a spy network from their elementary school, five unpopular misfits combine their talents and use cutting-edge gadgetry to fight evil around the world. *2011 Oregon Reader's Choice Award.*

**Red Kayak** by Priscilla Cummings (2006).

Realistic Fiction.

AR4.9, 800L, 224 pages.

First hailed as a hero for his dramatic water rescue of a little boy, thirteen-year-old Brady soon makes a discovery that puts him at the heart of a tragedy. Alone with his dark secret, Brady is forced to choose between his friends and the right thing. *ALA Best Book for Young Adults*.

**Scat** by Carl Hiaasen (2009).

Realistic Fiction.

AR5.5, 810L, 371 pages.

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing. *2011 Oregon Reader's Choice Award*.

**Stolen Children** by Peg Kehret (2008).

Mystery

AR4.6, 730L, 165 pages.

Amy, baby-sitting for little Kendra, must use her wits to save herself and the child after they are kidnapped by two thugs who are demanding money from Kendra's wealthy parents in exchange for the lives of the girls.

**Tiger** by Jeff Stone (2006).

Fantasy

AR5.0, 800L, 208 pages.

Five young warrior-monk brothers survive an insurrection and must use the ancient arts to avenge their Grandmaster.

**When You Reach Me** by Rebecca Stead (2009).

Science Fiction.

AR4.5, 750L, 199 pages.

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s TV show THE \$20,000 PYRAMID, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. *Newbery Medal, 2011 Oregon Reader's Choice Award*.

**The White Giraffe** by Lauren St. John (2007).

Fantasy.

AR6.2, 940L, 208 pages.

After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe.